Vaippil Padi-Thirumanivenkitapuram Road.

22. *MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR: Will the Government be pleased to state whether any improvement has been made in the "Vaippil Padi-Thirumanivenkitapuram road" in the year 1119-1120 as provided for in the Budget ?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKITAKRISHNAN: No. But improvements have been sanctioned and await execution.

Cost of labour and materials used for P. W. D. Works in the Kottayam Division.

23. *MR. P. S. MOHAMED: Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have studied the differences in the cost of labour and materials used for P. W. D. works in 1117, 1118 and 1119 in the Kottayam Division ?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKITAKRISHNAN: Yes.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know what is the P. W. D. rate for a labourer in the Kottayam Division in the year 1119 ?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKITAKRISHNAN: 75 per cent. more than the average of rates that existed in the year 1118.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know what are the actual rates ?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKITAKRISHNAN: The rates vary from time to time and that is what is indicated in the answer.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know whether the member has got the exact figure ?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKITAKRISHNAN: No, Sir, at present.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: Is the member aware that the actual rate paid for the P. W. D. labour is very much lower than the rate paid for direct labour ?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKITAKRISHNAN: If there is any such disparity in rates, I will enquire into the matter.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: There will be a disparity of three fourth times the direct rate.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member says that the ordinary rates are much higher than those paid for P. W. D. labourer. Then, why do people go into the P. W. D. for work ?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: That is the reason why P. W. D. works are being delayed. There are several works which have not yet been taken on account of such disparity in rates.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN (*Neyyattinkara* cum *Trivandrum*): May I know the number of hours that a P. W. D labourer is working per diem ?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKITAKRISHNAN: It depends on the nature of the locality where the labourer is working. It will come to about 7 to 8 hours in a day.

Improvements to the Thovala Channel.

24. *MR. S. MUTHUKARUPPA PILLAI (*Thovala* cum *Agastiswaram*): Will the Government be pleased to state if they have received any report from their subordinates of the Engineer's department on the

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